

2108 W. Arthur Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60645
April 22, 1999

Dan Glickman, Secretary
218 Dept. of Agriculture
14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Glickman,

Crops genetically-engineered to produce their own pesticides should be banned, PERIOD! No government agency ever had the legal or moral right to give permission to corporations to artificially introduce pesticides INTO (not onto) plants to begin with. Now these freaks of nature are replicating through the ordinary means of cross-pollination beyond the fields in which they were originally planted.

You already know the laundry list of problems that attach to this, so I won't enumerate them here. But I will point to just one: because no person can know the ultimate consequences of such fundamental gene-tampering, it is possible that a few greedy corporations could cause the entire plant kingdom to **CRASH**. Is the bedfellow relationship between government, its regulatory agencies and industry worth the risk?

I don't want you to regulate this insanity; I want you to stop it. Recall permission for this and all other biological tamperings now while there still may be time left to do so, including terminator seed technology.

Sincerely,
Sharon Cody

cc: to various others

cc: Dr. Jane E. Henney, FDA Commissioner
92N-0139 C 5056

ALERT!**Plant diversity, world food supply at risk****"Terminator" Seed Technology Threatens Farmers Worldwide**

Last March, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Delta and Pine Land Company announced that they had jointly developed a technique for altering the genetic structure of a plant so the seeds it produces will be sterile. This "terminator technology" will prevent farmers and gardeners from saving seeds for the next season. Instead, they will be forced to buy new seeds every year, giving seed companies complete control over our food supply. The technique is being introduced now into staple crops such as wheat, rice, and cotton, *but it can and eventually will be used on food crops of all kinds.*

Nine weeks after the announcement, Delta and Pine was purchased by Monsanto, the same company that brought us Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH) and impact-resistant, pesticide-soaked tomatoes. Monsanto intends to completely control crop production in Asia, Mexico, and South America, areas where food shortages and growing populations represent huge potential profits. The *USDA will profit too*; despite being a taxpayer-funded federal agency, it plans to collect a 5% royalty on all terminator seed sales.

Gardeners and growers everywhere should oppose this technology because;

- **It is dangerous.** There is a serious risk that in the open field, terminator-grown crops could "infect" other crops, causing crop sterilization across vast areas. In fact, a recent study at the University of Chicago indicates that genetically-altered plants are *20 times more likely* to "outcross" than naturally-grown plants. If this happens, the result could be famine on a scale never seen in human history.
- **It is bad business.** Terminator technology is supposed to protect Monsanto's investment in developing new seed varieties. But most of those seeds are just slight alterations of plants that farmers and gardeners have been growing for generations. They are nature's inventions, not ours, and it is unfair to let any one company claim ownership of them.
- **It puts profits before people.** We believe in free enterprise. But is a nation free when its citizens are forced to depend on *a few multinational corporations* for their daily food? Is it wise to give any one company this much control over our lives? And does it make sense to subsidize their profits with our tax dollars?

You can help. We urge you to write Congress and demand a ban on terminator technology, and a moratorium on further patenting of plant genes. Send your comments to: United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510 or House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. *Or you can email any Senator or Representative at www.uscongress.com*

Letters and phone calls carry more weight than faxes or e-mail. While House Line is (202) 456-1111

For more information, visit the News and Information section of our website at: www.gardeners.com



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**GENETIC-
ENGINEERING
OF PLANTS IS
BAD SEED!**

Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner
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